AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-31.   (Cancelled)

32-55. **(Cancelled)**

56.   **(Previously Presented)** A method comprising:

receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and

relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of a first

frame to a second set of byte locations of a second frame.

57.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 56, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

cross-connecting said time slots.

58.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 56, further comprising:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

59.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

outputting said outgoing time slots.

60.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 56, further comprising:

extracting said network management information; and

routing said network management information.

61.   **(Previously Presented)**   The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connect

comprises:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

62.   **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus comprising:

   means for receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein

   said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and

   means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations

   of a first frame to a second set of byte locations of a second frame.

63.   **(Previously Presented)**   The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

   means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

   said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

   means for cross-connecting said time slots.

64.   **(Previously Presented)**   The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

   means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

65.   **(Previously Presented)**   The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

   means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

   means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

   means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers;

   and

   means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

66.   **(Previously Presented)**   The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

   means for extracting said network management information; and

   means for routing said network management information.

67.   **(Previously Presented)**   The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said cross-connect

comprises:

   means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

68.   **(Previously Presented)**   A computer program product comprising:

   a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a first

   frame and a second frame, wherein

   said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate

    network management information from a first set of byte locations of a first frame

    to a second set of byte locations of a second frame; and

computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in said

    computer readable media.

69.   **(Previously Presented)**   The computer program product of claim 68, further comprising:

    a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a

        plurality of time slots, wherein

        said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

    a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-

        connect said time slots.

70.   **(Previously Presented)**   The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

    a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at

        least one of said time slots.

71.   **(Previously Presented)**   The computer program product of claim 70, further comprising:

    a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a

        plurality of incoming time slots;

    a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to

        sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

    a eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly

        read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

    an ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output

        said outgoing time slots.

72.   **(Previously Presented)**   The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising:

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a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said

network management information; and

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at

least one of said time slots.